WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery comprising:

an electrode substrate; and

an active material layer formed on the electrode substrate the active material layer containing an active material and a binder as a main component,

wherein said active material layer contains thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin.

2. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

3. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said active material has a particle diameter within a range of 20 - 100 μm.

4. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

5. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein a layer of said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin covers the outside of said active material layer.

6. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin is contained in a boundary between said active material

layer and said electrode substrate.

Sub C2

7. An electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin is contained in said active material layer.

8. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery by applying an active material slurry containing an active material and a binding agent as a main component to an electrode substrate, comprising the steps of:

mixing said active material and an aqueous binder or aqueous emulsion binder to create active material slurry;

applying or filling the active material slurry to or in an electrode substrate and drying the electrode substrate; and

immersing the electrode substrate in a solution with thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin dissolved in organic solvent and drying it.

9. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery according to claim 8, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

10. A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 8, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

11. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery

by applying an active material slurry containing an active material and a binding agent as a main component to an electrode substrate, comprising the steps of:

mixing an active material and an aqueous binder or aqueous emulsion binder to create active material slurry; applying or filling the active material slurry to or in an electrode substrate and drying the electrode substrate;

emulsifying a solution of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin dissolved in an organic solvent to create an emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin; and

immersing the electrode substrate in the emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin and drying it.

12. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery according to claim 11, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

13. A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 11, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

14. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery by applying an active material slurry containing an active material and a binding agent as a main component to an electrode

substrate, comprising the steps of:

emulsifying a solution of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin dissolved in an organic solvent to create an emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin; mixing said active material and the emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin to create active material slurry; and

applying or filling the active material slurry to or in an electrode substrate and drying the electrode substrate.

15. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery according to claim 14, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

16. A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 14, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

17. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery by applying an active material slurry containing an active material and a binding agent as a main component to an electrode substrate, comprising the steps of:

applying a solution of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin dissolved in an organic solvent to said electrode substrate and drying it; and

applying said active material slurry to said electrode substrate to which the solution of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin has been applied.

18. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery according to claim 17, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

19. A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 17, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.

20. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery by applying an active material slurry containing an active material and a binding agent as a main component to an electrode substrate, comprising the steps of:

emulsifying a solution of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin dissolved in an organic solvent to create an emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin;

applying said emulsion of the thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin to the electrode substrate and drying it; and

applying said active material slurry to the electrode substrate to which the emulsion of thermoplastic xylene-formaldehyde resin has been applied and drying it.

21. A method of manufacturing an alkaline storage battery

according to claim 20, wherein said thermosetting xylene-formaldehyde resin is alkylphenyl-modified xylene-formaldehyde resin.

22. A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 20, wherein said active material is a hydrogen storage alloy capable of reversibly making electro-chemical absorption or desorption of hydrogen.